(b) whether Government have taken any steps to develop a properly designed system for monitoring of contaminants in food and food products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The use of pesticides in crops is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of this Act, registers pesticides for use upon food crops in the country only after satisfying itself regarding efficacy of the pesticides and their safety to human health, animals and the environment.

While registering the pesticides, the Registration Committee also prescribes the crops, pests and diseases for which the pesticides are to be used, their doses, the method of their application and the safety precautions or instructions to be followed for the use of pesticides.

Thus, if pesticides are used in the approved doses and in accordance with the conditions following the safety precautions or instruction for its use, then their use do not threaten safety of food. However, excessive use, misuse or abuse may result in excessive residues in foods, which may affect safety of food and/or human health.

In order that the contaminants in food products do not excess the safe limits, the Ministry of Health has prescribed Maximum tolerance limits for pesticides in food products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The States/UTs are responsible for monitoring and implementation of the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in the country.

AIDS cases in Andhra Pradesh

4109. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIDS cases detected in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite crores of rupees released through National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and Department for International Development of British Government to Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control

Society, there is neither decrease in AIDS cases nor improvement in treatment of AIDS cases in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The reported number of AIDS cases in the State of Andhra Pradesh are as given below:—

Year	No. of Cases
1999	2
2000	485
2001	732

(b) to (d) No, Sir, HIV is a chronic infection without any cure. People infected with HIV in the past manifest as AIDS cases. Therefore increase in number of AIDS cases should not be taken as a criterion to assess the effectiveness of the programme.

Government is providing drugs for treatment of opportunistic infection free of cost in all hospitals up to the district level in the State.

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by indentification to target population and providing peer counselling, condom promotion and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.

Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.

Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Comprehensive Programme to Combat TB, Leprosy, Etc.

4110. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive programme and scheme to combat, TB, Leprosy, Malaria, AIDS Hepatitis A/B/C etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any financial assistance is being granted by the World Bank for combating the above diseases; and

(d) if so, the details of funds granted and utilized during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The National TB Control Programme (NTCP) has been in operation in the country since 1952. To achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such casses, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which is an application of the WHO recommended Directly Observed Treatment—Short Course (DOTS) Stategy, is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. At present, 460 million population has been covered under RNTCP and it is envisaged to cover a population of 800 million by the year 2004 and the entire country by year 2005. Under the Programme, 100% requirement of anti-TB drugs and Binocular Microscopes are provided as commodity grant by the Centre to all the States/UTs. For undertaking various activities for implementation of RNTCP, cash assistance is releassed to States/District TB Societies. The Programme is rigoriously monitored through quarterly performance reports.

The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) in all States/UTs with the objective of achieving the elimination of leprosy *i.e.* Prevalence of less than 1 case per 10,000 population, at national level, by March, 2004. The details of the 2nd phase of the Programme, which is currently in operation are :